

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration

OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING RESOURCES COMMISSION

One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908

Housing Resources Agency

Coordinating Committee Meeting

September 3, 2008

The meeting of the Coordinating Committee was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Susan Baxter, Chair of the Housing Resources Commission.

Present were:

Susan Baxter, Chair of the Housing Resources Commission

Richard Godfrey, Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing

Kevin Flynn, Assoc. Director, DOA, designee of Director Jerome Williams

Susan Bodington, Deputy Director, Rhode Island Housing

Guest: Meredith Holderbaum, Senate Fiscal Office

Staff: Noreen Shawcross, Executive Director of the Housing

Resources Commission

Susan Bodington moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting. Richard Godfrey seconded. The minutes were approved.

Memorandum of Agreement

Susan Baxter noted that the MOA between the HRC and Rhode Island Housing had changes incorporated suggested by Noreen at the previous Coordinating Committee meeting. Subsequently additional revisions were made by the HRC and the Board of Rhode Island Housing. Fewer changes are anticipated this year.

Susan Bodington had asked the RIH staff for input prior to this meeting. There was an agreement that there is a good working relationship in place with the only problem being the slow payments that prevents RI Housing from making payouts or forces up-front payments. Richard Godfrey noted that the state rental assistance program and emergency assistance programs (iii and iv) have been eliminated and should be deleted from page 3, C.

Noreen provided some draft wording for discussion that would include reference to management of the new federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) of the Housing & Economic Recovery Act of 2008. The group discussed the possible funding. Susan Bodington noted that the role of the HRC is setting policy while RIH can do such things as monthly payments to contractors that the state bureaucracy

cannot. RIH could do what it does for bond funds, that is, underwrite and supervise projects. Noreen is concerned that the HRC does not have the capacity in-house to run the programs. Kevin noted that RIH would need funding to operate this program. Susan Bodington is concerned with community capacity to use the funds. RIH is working right now to determine where the gap is and how to leverage other resources to show how these funds can best be used without “over funding.”

There were questions regarding ensuring compliance, monitoring, how we would work with private developers, how we would certify that the work has been done to our standards. Richard Godfrey has heard that this funding may not be getting out. Following discussion, Richard Godfrey suggested that this be addressed in a new Section C. Noreen and Susan Bodington will work out the wording.

The process will then be to bring the MOA to the October 17, 2008 meeting of the HRC and then to the RIH Board. Richard Godfrey moved to amend the MOA with the changes in the form attached and Kevin Flynn seconded.

Promulgation of Regulations

It was determined that with lead mitigation regulations, consensus may no longer be possible. With the expedited permitting regulations

that are underway now as well as others, it is important to try to get input and reach compromise before publication.

Other Business

Richard asked if we should update the strategic housing plan if it has been thrown off by social and economic conditions. School enrollment may give us an idea regarding numbers. We need to keep on top of this. Kevin asked the cost of the consultants. Noreen thought that it was approximately \$158,000. Susan Bodington said that we may just be able to do an update.

Another issue that Richard wished to call to our attention is the allocation in the bond of 20% homeownership and 80% rental. BHRI Condos are not selling. Should we stop funding them? Should we withdraw funding if a development has not started? Is there an interim use?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.